

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

HOUSE MEMORIAL 4

47TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2005

INTRODUCED BY

Ni ck L. Salazar

A MEMORIAL

PROCLAIMING MARCH 8, 2005 TO BE "OPEN HANDS DAY AT THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES" AND EXPRESSING RECOGNITION FOR OPEN HANDS' PROGRAMS AND STAFF THAT HAVE PROVIDED COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES TO THE FRAIL ELDERLY, DISABLED AND LOW-INCOME RESIDENTS OF NORTHERN NEW MEXICO SINCE 1977.

WHEREAS, Open Hands, incorporated, a nonprofit corporation, is dedicated to providing essential services to assist the frail elderly, the disabled and the economically disadvantaged to live with dignity and independence; and

WHEREAS, Open Hands, as one of eight designated community action agencies in the state of New Mexico, is dedicated to helping all people move out of poverty toward self-sufficiency; and

WHEREAS, more than two hundred twelve thousand New

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

1 Mexicans are sixty-five years of age or older and the number of
2 people in this population is expected to double in the next
3 twenty-five years; and

4 WHEREAS, of all fifty states, New Mexico has the fourth
5 fastest-growing percentage of population that is sixty-five and
6 older, with thirty and one-tenth percent of its residents now
7 in that age bracket; and

8 WHEREAS, more than one-fourth of New Mexicans over the age
9 of sixty-five struggle with simple daily activities like
10 shopping, cooking and housework; and

11 WHEREAS, New Mexico ranks among the top ten states in
12 terms of having an elderly population living in poverty, with
13 twelve and eight-tenths percent of its sixty-five-and-older
14 population living in poverty; and

15 WHEREAS, New Mexico's poverty rate is third in the nation,
16 with eighteen and four-tenths percent of its residents living
17 in poverty; and

18 WHEREAS, more than three hundred forty thousand New
19 Mexicans live with a disability; and

20 WHEREAS, the frail elderly and the disabled and their
21 families have increasingly expressed a desire to receive
22 community-based and community-integrated services as an
23 alternative to institutional care; and

24 WHEREAS, the frail elderly and the disabled want to
25 continue living independently in their own homes or with their

. 153365. 1

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

1 families for as long as possible; and

2 WHEREAS, the cost of institutionalized care ranges from
3 twenty-seven thousand dollars (\$27,000) to fifty thousand
4 dollars (\$50,000) per year, paid for by the state or the
5 family; and

6 WHEREAS, Open Hands' high-quality programs for the frail
7 elderly and the disabled give the loved ones and caregivers of
8 those people the freedom to continue working to support their
9 families and to contribute to the local economy; and

10 WHEREAS, nearly twelve thousand frail elderly, disabled
11 and low-income people received services from Open Hands last
12 year; and

13 WHEREAS, Open Hands' home safety modifications, medical
14 equipment loan bank, adult daycare services, thrift store,
15 medication management, case management emergency financial
16 assistance and home visitor programs all help people to live
17 with dignity and independence; and

18 WHEREAS, Open Hands is committed to enhancing the quality
19 of all of its programs, while building community awareness and
20 involvement; and

21 WHEREAS, Open Hands is committed to improving the quality
22 of life for the frail elderly and the disabled and relieving
23 their caretakers and families of the stress of providing
24 around-the-clock care;

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF

1 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that March 8, 2005
2 be designated as "Open Hands Day at the House of
3 Representatives"; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that recognition and appreciation
5 be extended to Open Hands for its twenty-eight years of
6 exemplary service to the citizens of northern New Mexico,
7 especially for its service to the frail elderly, disabled and
8 low-income residents of the state; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
10 transmitted to the Open Hands board of directors.

11 - 4 -
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete